

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 (ISO) W

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R 091800Z APR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1962

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG, SCUL

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: BASKET III READING ROOMS

REF: A. PARIS 8198, B. STATE 157018

1. AT NATO BASKET III CAUCUS ON APRIL 8 FRENCH
CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT FOLLOWING REVISED TEXT DESIGNED
TO COVER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF READING ROOMS. THIS
TELEGRAM RECOMMENDS THAT WE GIVE SUPPORT TO FRENCH
ON THIS ISSUE AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE.

BEGIN TEXT OF FRENCH ORIGINAL:

ENVISAGER TOUTES AUTRES DISPOSITIONS PRATIQUES
QUI PERMETTRAIENT, PAR ACCORD MUTUEL ENTRE LES
PARTIES INTERESSEES, DE FACILITER L'ACCES A LEURS
REALISATIONS CULTURELLES RESPECTIVES DANS LE DOMAINE
DU LIVRE. END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT OF DELEGATION'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

TO ENVISAGE ALL OTHER PRACTICAL MEASURES WHICH
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WILL PERMIT, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE INTERESTED

PARTIES, THE FACILITATION OF ACCESS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF BOOKS
END TEXT.

2. FRENCH REP EXPLAINED THAT DECISION TO MAKE THIS "MAJOR CONCESSION" REACHED IN LIGHT OF RIGID SOVIET POSTURE ON SUBJECT, MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED DURING CHIRAC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW (REF A). FRENCH REP INVITED COMMENTS FROM THE FIFTEEN BOTH ON LANGUAGE OF THEIR PROPOSED TEXT AND ON TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED IN USING IT, OBSERVING INTER ALIA THAT EVEN THIS WATERED-DOWN VERSION MIGHT WELL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS IN ABSENCE OF VIGOROUS ALLIED SUPPORT. FRENCH REP SAID TEXT WOULD ONLY BE USED AT A LATER STAGE, IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET CONCESSION. HE URGED THAT FACT OF ITS EXISTENCE BE CLOSELY HELD.

3. ON QUESTION OF GENERAL TCTICS, FRENCH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FIFTEEN SHOULD BEGIN CONSIDERING PRIORITIES IN CULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE. IN THIS CONNECTION FRENCH BELIEVE THAT WEST SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO REALISTIC TEXTS ON (A) READING ROOMS, ALONG LINES CITED ABOVE, (B) EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AMONG CREATIVE ARTISTS, UNDER PARAGRAPH 49 (D) OF THE HELSINKI RECOMMENDATIONS AND (C) INTRODUCTORY LANGUAGE TO CULTURAL SECTION.

4. FRENCH PLAN TO RAISE FOREGOING QUESTIONS IN NATO DELEGATION HEADS CAUCUS IN NEAR FUTURE, AND ARE CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN US SUPPORT, BOTH WITHIN NATO GROUP AND SUBSEQUENTLY VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS. GIVEN GENERAL SOVIET INFLEXIBILITY ON BASKET III ISSUES, USDEL CONCURS IN FRENCH EVALUATION THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF EVEN MODEST OBJECTIVES IN CULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE WILL REQUIRE FIRM WESTERN POSTURE.

5. FRENCH HAVE FELT STRONGLY ON ISSUES OF READING ROOMS AND HAVE TAKEN LEAD IN TRYING TO OBTAIN SOME LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT IN CSCE TEXTS. THEIR NEW TEXT IS SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKER THAN REALISTIC TEXT
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SUGGESTED LAST YEAR BY DEPARTMENT (REF B), AND THEY HAVE APPEALED TO US FOR OUR SUPPORT IN OBTAINING AT LEAST THIS MODEST LANGUAGE. IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND WE FEEL WE SHOULD GIVE FRENCH OUR GENERAL SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE, AND RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO IN THE LIGHT OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DISCUSSIONS HERE. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
ABRAMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS, BASKET III, BOOKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA02453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750124-0466
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750468/aaaackji.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 8198, 75 STATE 157018
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE POLICY: BASKET III READING ROOMS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, XG, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006